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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Stephen R. Ash

Serial No. Not Yet Known

Filed: February 23, 2001

METHOD OF ENHANCING CATHETER  
PATENCY USING A CITRATE SALT  
CATHETER LOCK SOLUTION

Before the Examiner

Group Art Unit

February 23, 2001

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

As a Preliminary Amendment to the attached U.S. national stage patent application,  
please enter the following amendments prior to computation of the filing fee.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5-8, 13-18, 21-25, 27-29, 32-34 and 41-43 as follows:

5. (Amended) The method of [any of claims 1-4] claim 1 wherein the lock solution  
includes a viscosifying agent selected from polyethylene glycol, glycerin, polygeline and  
mixtures thereof.

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Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Linda S. W. Conrad  
Signature of person mailing paper or fee

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